



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor  
502 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800  
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956  
1-800-264-0904

**COMMISSION MEETING**

Andrew Jackson Building 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room  
Friday, December 12, 2014  
8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Brenda Davis, Chair  
Jennie Harlan, Secretary  
Phil Acord  
Kelly Drummond  
Ashley Dunkin  
Ethan Flynn  
Audrey Taylor Gonzalez  
Genesis Hardin  
Bill Haynes  
Gary Houston  
Petrina Jones-Jesz  
Steven Neely  
Wendy Shea  
Christy Sigler  
Glenda Terry

**Members Absent**

Rob Mortensen, Vice  
Chair

Joshua Grubb  
Amy Jones  
Amy Lawrence  
Tawny Spinelli  
Jill Grayson Stott

**Staff Present**

Linda O'Neal, Exec. Dir.  
Richard Kennedy  
Diane Baham  
Dana Cobb  
Susan Cope  
Sujit Das  
Fay Delk  
Rodger Jowers  
Bill Latimer  
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice  
Melissa McGee  
Rose Naccarato  
Shaun Noblit

Gerald Papica  
Steve Petty  
Sarah Rudd  
John Rust  
Vicki Taylor  
Nancy Townsend  
Zanira Whitfield  
Gwen Wright

**Staff Absent**

Lindsey Cody  
Craig Hargrow  
Caryn Harris, Extern  
Diane Wise

**Speakers**

Monica Middlebrooks,  
DCS  
Michael Cull, DCS

I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Brenda Davis, Chair

Davis welcomed all and thanked O'Neal for hosting Commission members and staff at her home for a holiday party. She introduced guest speakers from the Department of Children's Services, Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice Monica Middlebrooks, and Deputy Commissioner of Child Health Dr. Michael Cull. Davis expressed how grateful TCCY is for our relationship with DCS.

II. Roll Call – Diane Baham

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

III. Approval of August 2014 Minutes

**MOTION: IT WAS MOVED (SHEA) AND SECONDED (HARLAN) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2014 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

IV. Department of Children’s Services Update – DCS Deputy Commissioner Monica Middlebrooks and Deputy Commissioner Mike Cull

Cull and Middlebrooks thanked TCCY for the opportunity to share the latest news and updates on Youth Development Center (YDC) programs and the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) in general.

Following several YDC crises in late summer 2014, DCS worked to identify and evaluate problems in current practices. At the same time, Middlebrooks, Cull and other senior DCS staff did extensive research on alternative approaches at secure residential treatment centers across the country.

Cull and Middlebrooks described planned policy changes with an overarching theme of cognitive behavior therapy. Current efforts revolve around implementation of a therapeutic, rather than correctional, model. DCS training for Children’s Services Officers (CSO) and other staff was updated to include positive behavior support tools and crisis intervention.

Middlebrooks provided an overview of several problems reported in assessments of YDC crises, including security issues and feeling unsafe, hunger, and a lack of structure in scheduling. DCS has identified possible solutions to these and other problems, and will continue to evaluate opportunities for improvement.

Middlebrooks reported involving YDC youth in the process and plans for changes to DCS programming have made a significant difference. Cull described an opportunity for DCS to do more for YDCs than ever before. Both Middlebrooks and Cull thanked TCCY for the support of DCS efforts, as well as knowledgeable feedback on all they do.

O’Neal stated that TCCY really appreciates its ongoing involvement in DCS efforts, and thanked Middlebrooks and Cull for helping DCS move forward with our recommendations and toward a therapeutic approach. Davis reiterated that TCCY is happy to be a part of the progress underway at DCS, and thanked Middlebrooks and Cull for their presentations.

V. Budget and Data Committee – Christy Sigler, Chair

Sigler reported the Committee reviewed a report on the close of FY 2014, that ended June 30. TCCY ended FY 2014 having expended 99 percent of its state dollars and, overall, 82 percent of revenues. Sigler stated the agency met state expenditure goals for FY 2014. She also reported agency spending is on track for the first quarter of FY 2015.

Handouts detailing current status of Federal Formula Grant (FFG) and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funds were distributed. The Grant Review Committee (GRC) met to review applications for Title II FFG awards and will offer recommendations to the Commission. JABG has been discontinued and the remaining balance of approximately \$130,000 will pay for printing the Compilation of Selected Laws on Children, Youth and Families in 2015 and 2016.

Davis and Mortenson participated with Kennedy, Townsend and O’Neal at the Administration budget hearing for TCCY. The agency’s proposed budget for FY 2016 included a request for \$99,000 to fund six additional CASA programs and a plan to cut expenses by seven percent, as requested of all departments by the Administration, by eliminating two vacant positions and reducing operating expenses.

**MOTION: ON BEHALF OF THE BUDGET AND DATA COMMITTEE, SIGLER MOVED ACCEPTANCE OF THE BUDGET REPORT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Naccarato gave a summary of two recent Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT reports, “Creating Opportunities for Families: A Two-Generational Approach,” released November 12, and “KIDS COUNT: State of the Child in Tennessee,” released December 4. For the next publication, Naccarato hopes to report county-by-county data. Naccarato also reported on her involvement in the Casey Foundation’s Leadership Institute for State-Based Advocates (LISA) program.

Das reported web statistics for July, August and September. Delk reported on media activities over the same period. At last count, TCCY’s Facebook page has 1,482 “likes” and the agency’s Twitter feed has 463 followers. Delk also reported on *The Advocate*.

VI. Children’s Services Committee – Wendy Shea, Chair

Shea reported a productive Committee meeting and proceeded to highlight activities of various sections within Children’s Services.

The Second Look Commission (SLC) met in November to discuss the annual report, due at the end of the year. SLC recommendations include the institution of a statewide medical examiner system.

The Ombudsman program reported 39 cases (29 open/active and 10 information-only) for the quarter, and noted the 3:1 ratio of open/active cases to information-only cases is consistent with caseload trends from the last three years. Papica is an active member of the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA), and recently attended the USOA

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. In addition to serving on the New Ombudsman Training faculty, Papica is also co-chair of USOA Children and Families specialty chapter.

Papica and Hargrow joined Judge Dwight Stokes as featured speakers in a series of workshops for juvenile justice advocates and professionals. Their program, “Seeking Justice for All: One Child at a Time,” has been offered at a number of sites across the state and continues to be very well-received.

Shea welcomed and introduced Melissa McGee, the new Director of TCCY’s Council on Children’s Mental Health (CCMH) division. McGee brings a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm to the position and is a welcome addition to the agency.

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) completed an annual report for FY 2014 in October. Petty highlighted key facts and figures, noting the ongoing success of Extension of Foster Care Services (EFCS) efforts. In its fourth year, EFCS continued to expand and reach more youth, serving 779 youth (40 percent of all youth who aged out of foster care and were eligible for EFCS) in FY 2014. Additionally, the total number of youth who reached 18 while in Department of Children’s Services (DCS) custody (“aged out”) dropped for the fifth consecutive year.

## VII. Councils Committee – Kelly Drummond on behalf of Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Kennedy and Jowers continue to finalize plans for *The Raising of America* video series and corresponding launch event. More information on this project is available at [www.raisingofamerica.org](http://www.raisingofamerica.org).

Drummond distributed a handout featuring artwork and information about the “Advocators” superheroes theme chosen for Children’s Advocacy Days (CAD) 2015. As of Commission meeting, 237 people had registered to attend the event on March 10 and 11.

Kennedy provided further updates on CAD 2015 program and planning. Several presentations have been confirmed for the agenda, including “Legends of the Knight,” by featured speaker Brett Culp, “Seeking Justice for All: One Child at a Time,” by Judge Dwight Stokes, “Investments in Early Childhood,” by Bill Millet, and “Project Awake,” by Justin Harvey. Kennedy is working to confirm several other presentations, including Mary Graham on the Tennessee Afterschool Network, Graham Thomas on TN Achieves, and Dr. Kenneth Minkoff on System of Care Integration.

Several Commissioners of child-serving departments, including Health, Human Services, Children’s Services, Education, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, have been invited to serve on a Commissioners Panel planned for CAD 2015. First Lady Crissy Haslam has been asked to moderate the panel, and expressed interest in doing so if her schedule allows.

In addition to presentation and panel plans, Kennedy is working on an “Everyday Heroes” agenda item, which would feature recognition of interesting or inspiring people making a “heroic” difference in their community. Kennedy welcomed suggestions on worthy honorees and hopes to include heroes from all over the state.

Handouts on TCCY’s annual awards, including nomination forms, were distributed. TCCY’s annual awards are presented each year at CAD. Drummond and Davis described CAD as a “can’t miss event,” and strongly encouraged Commission members to attend.

In conclusion, Drummond reviewed each Regional Coordinator’s council report and activities update.

#### VIII. Juvenile Justice Committee – Phil Acord, Chair

Acord reported a great committee meeting regarding various Juvenile Justice (JJ) and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues. Whitfield distributed a handout with the latest Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Violations Report. Two counties continue to produce a disproportionate amount of violations. Acord stated that the committee would like to encourage improvement in these counties, and welcomed Commission members and staff to share any ideas that might be helpful for doing so.

Acord presented the DMC Task Force progress report on Hargrow’s behalf. Madison County is under consideration as a potential local DMC task force site. While TCCY remains open to the possibility of establishing new local DMC task forces, the agency’s first priority is to ensure functionality and success of task forces already in operation throughout the state.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) completed its review and analysis of Tennessee’s annual Compliance Monitoring Report and found that Tennessee was in “compliance” or “full compliance” with three of the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Tennessee was found to be “not out of compliance” in the fourth core requirement, concerning DMC Reduction. Per OJJDP recommendations, Hargrow submitted a technical assistance request and plans to implement the full DMC Reduction Model with the OJJDP aide.

Gonzalez distributed a handout featuring Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives being implemented in Shelby County. Gonzalez summarized the JDAI assistance Shelby County receives and discussed potential impacts to its juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Justice Committee reviewed information regarding Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act legislation, and voted to support reauthorization of the Act.

**MOTION: ON BEHALF OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE, ACORD MOVED TCCY SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

IX. Audit Committee – Christy Sigler, Chair

Sigler reported the Audit Committee met via teleconference December 2. Members discussed the committee's purpose and responsibilities and reviewed the charter, which O'Neal sent to members via email for review. The Audit Committee is required to meet at least annually, according to the State of Tennessee Audit Committee Act of 2005. Sigler will work to schedule annual Audit Committee meetings around the same time each year.

O'Neal stated Chair Davis appointed members of the Audit Committee, as is standard procedure for committee assignments per TCCY bylaws. Upon further review of the Audit Charter, however, it was determined that the Commission as a whole votes on Audit Committee membership.

**MOTION: ON BEHALF OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, SIGLER MOVED TCCY APPROVE CURRENT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014 AND 2015 – SIGLER, ACORD, DRUMMOND, FLYNN, HAYNES, HOUSTON, LAWRENCE, MORTENSEN AND STOTT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Committee members received TCCY's Financial Integrity Act (FIA) document via email, and were welcomed to make suggestions for changes if issues were identified. O'Neal and Townsend finalized the FIA for December 31 submission deadline.

O'Neal presented a fraud and abuse update, reporting no instances of fraud or abuse within TCCY in recent years. In early 2015, O'Neal will send a letter to all staff reminding them of their responsibility to report any fraud or abuse. Sigler asked that the same letter be provided to Commission members, and O'Neal agreed to do so.

X. Grant Review Committee – Wendy Shea, Chair

Davis and Shea thanked Grant Review Committee (GRC) members who came early to evaluate and score the Federal Formula Grant (FFG) applications.

Shea reported that 16 applications for 2014-2015 FFG funds were received and reviewed by GRC members. Grant funds were made available for projects in one of three categories: Gender Specific Services, System Improvement and Disproportionate Minority Contact. Shea summarized grant applications and GRC recommendations for Commission approval on each application.

Shea presented the Gender Specific grant applications:

**NFF-GEN 01-14, LEAP Organization.**

**MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR LEAP ORGANIZATION. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-GEN 02-14, Boys & Girls Club of Tennessee Valley.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
TENNESSEE VALLEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000. UNANIMOUSLY  
CARRIED.**

**NFF-GEN 03-14, Coalition for Kids, Inc.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR COALITION FOR KIDS, INC.  
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,594. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-GEN 04-14, STARS Nashville.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR STARS NASHVILLE IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$80,000. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-GEN 05-14, Gallatin Shalom Zone, Inc.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR GALLATIN SHALOM  
ZONE, INC. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-GEN 06-14, New Vision, Inc.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR NEW VISION, INC.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Shea presented the System Improvement grant applications:

**NFF-SYS 01-14, Bedford County Schools.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR BEDFORD COUNTY  
SCHOOLS. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-SYS 02-14, Tennessee Department of Children's Services.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,644.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-SYS 03-14, Shelby County Schools Mental Health Center.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-SYS 04-14, Clay County Board of Education.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,422. UNANIMOUSLY  
CARRIED.**

**NFF-SYS 05-14, Children & Family Services, Inc.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY  
SERVICES, INC. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-SYS 06-14, Cheatham County School District.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR CHEATHAM COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Shea presented the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) grant applications:

**NFF-DMC 01-14, Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF  
CLEVELAND. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-DMC 02-14, Madison County Juvenile Court Services.  
MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR MADISON COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$87,086.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-DMC 03-14, Juvenile Court of Nashville & Davidson County.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR JUVENILE COURT OF  
NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NFF-DMC 04-14, Merry In God Foundation.  
MOTION NOT TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR MERRY IN GOD  
FOUNDATION DUE TO LATE SUBMISSION. UNANIMOUSLY  
CARRIED.**

**MOTION: ON BEHALF OF THE GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE, SHEA MOVED  
THAT REMAINING FUNDS NOT AWARDED BE HELD TO USE NEXT YEAR.  
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**XI. TCCY Dashboard - Richard Kennedy**

Kennedy distributed an updated version of the TCCY dashboard for Commission review. He explained the dashboard's main purposes: to serve as an accountability measure to the Commission, as a tool for agency management to monitor and identify any areas of concern, and providing a quick way to organize thoughts and share information.

Kennedy highlighted several key sections of the current dashboard:

- Juvenile Justice (JJ) includes a summary of grant information and DSO violation statistics;
- KIDS COUNT presents expenditures for children under the age of five;
- Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) features a breakdown of CCMH meetings, with information on numbers of both speakers and attendees;
- Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) includes key 2014 recommendations.



Kennedy said staff will continue to update and tweak the document and develop it for use on an on-going basis. Commission members were encouraged to share any feedback or recommendations regarding content.

XII. Director's Report – Linda O'Neal

O'Neal provided a brief overview of the Director's Report and encouraged members to review it for more detail. She expressed the agency's appreciation to Davis and Mortensen for participating in the Commission's annual budget hearing with the Department of Finance and Administration. O'Neal also thanked staff for their hard work leading up to and during our last Commission meeting of the year.

O'Neal reported the agency will have a Title VI Monitoring Visit from the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in January. She reported TCCY has completed the Talent Management process with the Department of Human Resources, and Steve Petty will be the agency participant in LEAD Tennessee for 2015. Regional Coordinators continue to do a great job with the Regional Councils.

O'Neal expressed appreciation to Davis for continuing to serve in an advocate position on the Second Look Commission. The 2014 Second Look Commission Report will be submitted to the General Assembly by the end of the month. The Youth Transitions Report was submitted in October. She pointed out there is a new section in the Director's Report entitled "Other Interfaces with the Department of Children's Services" that has been added to reflect greater involvement with DCS. O'Neal reported in accordance with the Commission's established positions of support for pre-kindergarten programs, she submitted a letter of support for Tennessee's application for federal pre-k funding for Shelby and Davidson Counties that has recently been approved.

O'Neal distributed materials on TCCY's annual awards, traditionally presented at CAD, including the Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award, the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award and the Youth Excellence Award. O'Neal reported she and Davis had discussed presenting this year's Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award to Judge Dwight Stokes. Davis said she strongly supported giving the award to Judge Stokes.

**BY CONSENSUS, COMMISSION MEMBERS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO HONOR JUDGE DWIGHT STOKES WITH THE SENATOR DOUGLAS HENRY PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD AT CAD 2015.**

XIII. Chair's Report – Brenda Davis

Davis thanked everyone for their active participation in Commission meeting. She reminded Commission members to complete and submit their expense reports before leaving.

XIV. Other Business

O'Neal presented annual service awards to staff who had reached significant benchmarks of state service and congratulated them on their commitment and good work:

Diane Baham – 30 years;  
Fay Delk – 20 years;  
Bill Latimer – 25 years; and  
Rose Naccarato – 15 years.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

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Sarah Rudd, Administrative Services  
Assistant 2

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Brenda Davis, Chair